

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTRE 00817 202131Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8990
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS MONTREAL 817

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJ: LE JOUR RECOMMENDS VOTE AGAINST LIBERALS IN BY-ELECTIONS

1. IN AN EDITORIAL IN LE JOUR OF MAY 20TH EDITOR-IN-CHIEF EVELYN DUMAS TAKES POSITION URGING QUEBEC SEPARATISTS TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATES HAVING THE BEST CHANCE TO DEFEAT LIBERAL PARTY CANDIDATES IN BY-ELECTIONS MAY 24TH. DUMAS WRITES THAT SEPARATISTS SHOULD NOT FORGET THAT THEIR PRINCIPLE ADVERSARY, PIERRE TRUDEAU, RISKS A LOT IN THE ELECTIONS AND THAT THEY SHOULD THEREFORE WISH HIM A SERIOUS SET BACK.
2. DUMAS GOES ON TO SAY THAT FOR QUEBEC SEPARATISTS, WHO SHE SAYS FORM AT PRESENT AT LEAST A THIRD OF THE QUEBEC ELECTORATE, THE PRINCIPLE MOTIF FOR WISHING AN ELECTORAL LOSS BY THE FEDERAL LIBERALS IS THAT THE LIBERALS ARE DIRECT AND CONSTANT AGGRESSORS, MORE ESPECIALLY AS BITTER ENEMIES OF THE "PROJECT QUEBECOIS", AS ITS ACHIEVEMENT WILL SEND THEM TO POLITICAL OBSCURITY. DUMAS SUGGESTS THAT VOTERS REMEMBER INSULTS AT HANDS OF THE LIBERALS AND VOTE AGAINST THEM BY SUPPORTING OPPOSITION CANDIDATES WHO HAVE THE BEST CHANCE OF WINNING.
3. COMMENT: THE DUMAS EDITORIAL DOES NOT REPRESENT THE OFFICIAL

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POSITION OF THE PARTI QUEBECOIS, WHICH HAS SAID THAT AS A PARTY IT WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE BY-ELECTIONS IN ANY WAY, OTHER THAN TO SAY ITS MEMBERS ARE FREE TO VOTE AS THEY CHOOSE. LE JOUR DOES, HOWEVER, SPEAK UNOFFICIALLY FOR AND TO THAT SEGMENT OF THE QUEBECOIS WHO ARE SEPARATISTS. WE ARE TOLD THAT WHILE LE JOUR RECEIVES NO FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE PQ, IT DOES RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE SAID TO BE SEPARATISTS,

AND WHO ONE WOULD ASSUME ARE INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE PQ.

4. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY HOW TUESDAY'S ELECTIONS WILL BE
AFFECTED, AS WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING TO WHAT EXTENT LE JOUR'S
TROOPS WILL RESPOND TO DUMAS' MARCHING ORDER. IF RESPONSE IS
STRONG, SCALES COULD BE TIPPED AGAINST LIBERALS IN TERREBONNE
AND TEMISCAMINGUE, WHERE LIBERALS APPEAR TO FACE TOUGHEST
CHALLENGE.
HARPER

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